

NORTHEAST MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTERS RECOGNIZE ROBUST VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

By Kathleen Piché, Public Affairs Director



Over sixty staff, volunteers and friends attended the Northeast Mental Health Center and Northeast Wellness Center volunteer recognition luncheon on Thursday, October 02, 2014, at Mijares restaurant in Pasadena. The event honored volunteers who help others struggling with mental health issues. Northeast has over 40 volunteers who visit others when they are ill, raise money for special causes, such as the upcoming NAMI Walk (\$1400 so far), facilitate groups and do whatever needs to be done.

This type of acknowledgement is a tradition at the clinic and wellness center—Northeast Mental Health Center has been honoring volunteers for 12 years, the Northeast Wellness Center for six. The volunteers seek to improve society through service to others. Dina Flores, Peer Advocate, keeps track of all of the volunteers at Northeast and notes that the volunteers provide an average of 1800 donated hours per month.



Frank Duarte, Community Worker, hosted the event, introducing Anthony Alvarado, L.C.S.W., LACDMH Program Head, Northeast Mental Health Center and Northeast Wellness Center. Two former clients, Angelica Vela and Karina Alcala, told their stories as guest speakers—both have graduated from college and are working. Maria Aguilar, M.D., noted that it is because of the dedicated volunteers and staff that the culture at Northeast is so vibrant and successful.



A buffet lunch and live music was provided prior to the award ceremony.

Irma Castaneda, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., Acting Deputy Director, EOB, spoke to the crowd, acknowledging their service and good works. Dina Flores and Ramona Casupang closed the event, where everyone present felt appreciated.